

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~The safety device of claim 1~~ In snowboarding equipment that includes a snowboard, two boots, one boot for each of two feet of a snowboarder, and two bindings, each binding designed to secure one boot to the snowboard, a safety device comprising:

a binding support platform fashioned to enable fastening of both bindings, the bindings being fastened to the binding support platform rather than to the snowboard; and
a platform retention assembly that is fashioned to be fastened to the snowboard;
the platform retention assembly including a plurality of preloaded compliant members that form interfaces with contours on the binding support platform;
said interfaces preventing the binding support platform from separating from the platform retention assembly except when a force or torque applied to the snowboard exceeds a set threshold; and
the platform retention assembly including a plurality of firm features that contact firm mating features of the binding support platform, said plurality of firm features including all such firm features on the platform retention assembly that contact firm mating features of the binding support platform;
said firm features and firm mating features being arranged such that the contacts between them that limit relative in-plane translation, when projected onto the plane of the snowboard, are all tangent about one mutual center point; and
wherein all of the preloaded compliant members of said platform retention assembly are located in an inner region between the bindings, and wherein the binding support platform includes a surface that covers or partially covers the preloaded compliant members of the platform retention assembly.

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~The safety device of claim 1~~ In snowboarding equipment that includes a snowboard, two boots, one boot for each of two feet of a snowboarder, and two

bindings, each binding designed to secure one boot to the snowboard, a safety device comprising:

a binding support platform fashioned to enable fastening of both bindings, the bindings being fastened to the binding support platform rather than to the snowboard; and
a platform retention assembly that is fashioned to be fastened to the snowboard;
the platform retention assembly including a plurality of preloaded compliant members that form interfaces with contours on the binding support platform;
said interfaces preventing the binding support platform from separating from the platform retention assembly except when a force or torque applied to the snowboard exceeds a set threshold; and
the platform retention assembly including a plurality of firm features that contact firm mating features of the binding support platform, said plurality of firm features including all such firm features on the platform retention assembly that contact firm mating features of the binding support platform;
said firm features and firm mating features being arranged such that the contacts between them that limit relative in-plane translation, when projected onto the plane of the snowboard, are all tangent about one mutual center point; and
wherein all of the preloaded compliant members of said platform retention assembly are located in an inner region between the bindings, and wherein said firm features of the platform retention assembly are firm features of one or more plates that are components of the platform retention assembly.

Claim 5 (original): The safety device of claim 4, wherein said one or more plates includes at least two distinct underlying plate pieces, each being fastened to the snowboard.

Claim 6 (original): The safety device of claim 5, wherein at least two of the distinct underlying plate pieces are in sliding contact with each other at a joint that permits relative longitudinal motion but constrains relative lateral or vertical motion.

Claim 7 (previously presented): In snowboarding equipment that includes a snowboard, two boots, one boot for each of two feet of a snowboarder, and two bindings, each binding designed to secure one boot to the snowboard, a safety device comprising

- a binding support platform assembly and,
- at least one platform retention plate fashioned to be fastened to the snowboard,

wherein the binding support platform assembly includes

- a binding support platform fashioned to enable fastening of both bindings, the bindings being attached to the binding support platform rather than to the snowboard, and
- a plurality of preloaded compliant members that form interfaces with contours on the platform retention plate,

said interfaces preventing the binding support platform assembly from separating from the platform retention plate except when a force or torque applied to the snowboard exceeds a set threshold, and

wherein the platform retention plate includes one or more firm features that contact one or more firm mating features of the binding support platform assembly, said one or more firm features including all such firm features on the platform retention plate that contact firm mating features of the binding support platform assembly;

said firm features and firm mating features being arranged such that the contacts between them that limit relative in-plane translation, when projected onto the plane of the snowboard, are all tangent about one mutual center point.

Claim 8 (original): The safety device of claim 7, wherein all of the preloaded compliant members of said binding support platform assembly are located in an inner region between the bindings.

Claim 9 (original): The safety device of claim 7 wherein said contours include facets that facilitate forcible reattachment of the binding support platform assembly onto the platform retention plate.

Claim 10 (original): The safety device of claim 7, wherein the preloaded compliant members of said binding support platform assembly are located in two peripheral regions, one

peripheral region located closer to the leading edge of the snowboard than either of the bindings, and the other peripheral region located closer to the trailing edge of the snowboard than either of the bindings.

Claim 11 (original): The safety device of claim 7 wherein said platform retention plate comprises at least two distinct plate pieces, each being fastened to the snowboard.

Claim 12 (original): The safety device of claim 7 having two platform retention plates that are not in contact with each other.

Claim 13 (original): The safety device of claim 7 wherein the platform retention assembly includes three or more preloaded compliant members.

Claim 14 (original): The safety device of claim 7, wherein the binding support platform includes a surface that covers or partially covers the preloaded compliant members of the binding support platform assembly.

Claim 15 (original): The safety device of claim 8, wherein each preloaded compliant member provides a force to one or more of said interfaces and all of the forces can be simultaneously adjusted by adjusting the position of one centrally located component.

Claim 16 (original): The safety device of claim 11 wherein at least two of the distinct plate pieces are in sliding contact with each other at a joint that permits relative longitudinal motion but constrains relative lateral or vertical motion.